

22 May 2006

Dear Secretary MacDonald and Mr. Dye:

Thank you for your constructive response to the concerns with the current status of the SR 519 project which FMSIB and other freight interests recently shared with WSDOT. We heartily endorse your desire to find resolution to the differences of opinion which are preventing this important project from advancing.

FMSIB is anxious to cooperate with WSDOT to convene a meeting or series of meetings of interested parties, as soon as is practicable. Our goal is to assure that the specific interests of freight are included in the discussion and that proper consideration is given to those needs. Ultimately however, we cannot embrace any solution that does not support and improve the multimodal freight mobility needs of the area which was the original goal when funding was approved for this project.

One factor that we observe is lacking in discussions is common knowledge of the data relating to the project, particularly regarding the feasibility of the alternatives being considered. It seems important that relevant data is shared with all who have an interest and wish to contribute to a constructive outcome.

Prior to knowing precisely when the WSDOT meeting will occur, FMSIB will invite freight interests to a meeting to discuss and define a desired outcome which addresses the freight concerns. WSDOT will be notified of the meeting and would certainly be welcome to attend that meeting

In our May 9 letter on this subject, we informed WSDOT that FMSIB would have a follow-up communication after our May 19 board meeting. In light of your email referenced above, we have concluded that we do not need to send additional comments at this time.

We appreciate your sensitivity to the concerns of the freight community and look forward to your leadership in finding resolution.

Sincerely,

Patricia Otley, Chair
Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board